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# THE RIO NEWS

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for the mail packets of the 5th, 15th and 25th of the month.

A. J. LAMOURKUN, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs, a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock quotations, sales, a table of freights and charters, a summary of the daily coffee reports from the Associação Commercial, and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, FEBRUARY 15th, 1888.

In view of subsequent events the haste with which the government suspended the municipal council of S. Borja, Rio Grande do Sul, for venturing to ask for a *plebiscite* on the question of succession, is becoming a manifest absurdity. A government which was energetic and decisive yesterday, only to be weak and indecisive to-day, has already lost the battle. We do not know what the ultimate purpose of the S. Borja aldermen was, whether to promote the creation of a republic, or to transfer the succession to some male member of the imperial family; but as they only asked for a popular vote and addressed their petition to the provincial assembly, where it would undoubtedly have been buried in the archives of some committee, the government would have been wiser, perhaps, to have taken no notice of it. But as the cabinet took immediate notice of the act, and at once suspended the offending aldermen, more attention was drawn to their proposition than would otherwise have been done. The result is that the municipal councils of Campinas, S. Simão, S. Vicente and S. José da Boa Vista, S. Paulo, have taken the question in hand, and the provincial assembly of that province has been asked to petition the imperial parliament for a constituent assembly to deliberate upon the question. The matter has accordingly been brought before the provincial assembly, and has been referred to a committee. In Santos an enthusiastic public meeting has been held to promote the movement, and similar meetings will be held in other places. If now the government were consistent and determined, it would suspend every one of these councils and order the prosecution of all these revolutionists, just as it did in Rio Grande do Sul. To suspend a municipal council in São Paulo just now, however, is a little more risky than a similar act in any other province—and the premier is probably well aware of this fact. We do not anticipate any such event as a revolution in Brazil at the present time, and yet it is easy to see that it would not require very much pressure from the government to precipitate one.

We have elsewhere called attention to the extreme import duties that increased necessities have forced upon Brazilian financial authorities. These duties are not professedly for protective purposes, but for revenue; and although under them exotic trades have undoubtedly been stimulated, still the main fact remains that every minister of finance, who has seen that his

revenue was insufficient, has always laid violent hands on the import duties, so much so that for many years past we have seen nothing but increased duties on every species of pretext. The position is becoming intolerable, and foreign governments should take cognizance of it. The petting and coddling of the planter, his relief from all direct taxes, the recent abolition of the export duty on sugar for his benefit, in fact the whole dedication of the government to this helpless class, demands strong remonstrance from foreign countries, who are virtually being sacrificed to the planting interest of Brazil, and it would not require a much stronger pressure on the mercantile class to hear these remonstrances formulated. If this government has decided to drive the foreign merchants away from Brazil, then it would be just as well to do so at once. Killing by inches is cruel, and this is what is now taking place. If the Brazilian consumer is willing to wear and eat the production of the "indústria nacional," then foreigners had better decide upon closing their establishments, and leave the empire to the tender mercies of the industries that have been started under almost prohibitive tariffs. There is not even the excuse that these tariffs are protective as was the case in the United States, where this system was frankly declared the policy of the leaders. The United States however had an immense internal revenue, which rendered the country to a great extent independent of the custom houses for its actual necessities. Brazil, on the other hand, is almost wholly dependent on its custom houses; cartail, or destroy, the import trade and the effect will be instantaneous. This is a very serious question and requires an amount of study that has not heretofore been granted it. It must be patent to the most superficial observer that duties have reached a maximum, and some new sources of revenue must be discovered. To impose upon one class, the merchants, the obligation to support a class notoriously improvident, and to a considerable extent loaded with debt, is a gross injustice. Let the planter contribute something, in Heaven's name, to relieve the country upon which he has so long been little more than a load and to the advance of which he is an obstacle.

THE São Paulo *Diário Popular* of the 9th instant contains an interesting article on "Patria Paulista," in which the province of São Paulo is said to have given "alms" to Brazil to the extent of 29,605,988\$726 during the eighteen months from July 1st, 1886, to December 31st, 1887. The sum—not "alms"—received by the province from the empire in the same period is stated to have been only 4,292,315\$231, showing a balance in favor of the "alms" of 25,313,603\$492. We do not know how the writer manages to avoid a larger figure for imperial expenditure in the province, for there was certainly a very considerable amount of attention given to São Paulo during the period under review. So far as the favors of the imperial government go, outside of its capital, the province of São Paulo certainly appears to get a very considerable share. If we mistake not, that province is the only one which has thus far received money from the imperial treasury to help pay for a special provincial immigration propaganda. Moreover, São Paulo is to-day the dominating influence in the imperial parliament. Then, too, São Paulo has a moral responsibility in the matter which she can not easily escape. It was in great part the influence of eminent Paulistas which led to the separation from Portugal, and it was on her own territory that the celebrated cry of "independência ou morte" was first heard—if heard at all.

Had this not taken place, the accumulating revenues of São Paulo might now be going to Lisbon instead of Rio de Janeiro, to the building of palaces, churches, wharves and monuments on the Tagus instead of creating a capital for a great South American empire. Then there is the army, the navy and diplomatic service, in all of which São Paulo has a large proprietary interest and for whose support she ought willingly to pay her just share. It is true that she pays out more money than she receives, but she pays it for the privilege of exploring and governing the rest of the empire. In colonial times her adventurous sons were to be found far in the interior of Minas Geraes and Goyaz after gold, diamonds and slaves, and far to the south in Paraná, Santa Catharina and the Missions after the wealth of the Jesuits. Now that the gold and the Jesuits are gone, it would be selfish for them to withdraw within their *terra roxa* bounds and leave the rest of the country to its fate. There are still a few railway privileges to explore, a few offices to be filled, a few honors to confer. It is to be hoped that the good people of São Paulo will not decide hastily to retreat behind the unimproved mud-and-water front of Santos, and leave the rest of us to suffer for the trifling "alms" which they are so well able to bestow.

In view of the failure to adopt a new land law during the last session of the General Assembly, and of the pressing necessity of securing some rational legislation on that subject at once—during the next session if possible—would it not be good policy for the central immigration society of this city to take the question up and try to arouse public opinion in regard to it? Logically these needed reforms ought to have been adopted before any steps were taken to augment immigration to this country, so that small homes might be in waiting for those who prefer to settle in that way. It would be preferable, of course, to get the large encumbered estates, situated near railways and markets, broken up into small farms, because then the chances of at once earning a living and contributing something to the trade of the country, would be more quickly realized; but as this depends largely upon the banks who hold the mortgages, the success of the effort must necessarily depend largely and primarily upon them. The legislature might, however, do something to facilitate the liquidation of these estates, and then provide a general and uniform system for their survey and division into farms. Provisions must be made for some simple rectangular system of survey, for roads, and for the registration and protection of titles. That burdensome tax of six per cent on transfers ought to be abolished completely, and a light tax substituted for the registration, just sufficient to meet the expense of the offices and the proper preservation of records. As there is much confusion throughout the country in regard to titles and boundaries, a special judicial commission or court might be established for the consideration of all such cases. Then, too, the excessively high testamentary taxes should be largely reduced, or abolished altogether, in order to facilitate the settlement of estates now held by heirs in common. These undivided estates are becoming a very serious obstruction to the development of the country, and must continue so until they can be properly liquidated. There is no need of sending immigrants away out on the frontiers, where there are no markets nor transportation facilities, for a little rational and much-needed legislation will open up all the land they may require for years to come in places near existing towns. These are matters of

infinitely greater importance than the creation of credit institutions for speculators and improvident debtors, and no time ought to be lost in bringing them properly before the public.

As it appears nearly certain that the last article of Brazilian production, upon which duties have been levied in the United States, will be placed on the free list during the present session of Congress—we refer to sugar—it may not be unseasonable to confront the consideration shown the planters of Brazil by the American authorities, with the action of the Brazilian government in reference to the miserably few staple articles sent to these markets from the United States, and to call attention to the very one-sided position of the trade between the two countries. We may anticipate certain objections surely to arise. The principal of these, it occurs to us, will be that Brazil raises all its revenue, or so great a part of it as to render the balance almost insignificant, through the custom houses, and cannot therefore in justice to its creditors lower duties; whereas the United States has a large surplus and can dispense with the sugar duties without great detriment to its revenue. If this objection be considered, it appears that Brazil is suing in *forma pauperis*, and the answer to such an appeal should be the commiseration of her wealthy and powerful neighbor. But one fact we consider it right to point out to American merchants and traders. This is, that all and any contemplation shown Brazilian produce has heretofore been of little, if any, benefit to the consumer of this produce, for prices of coffee almost immediately advanced here to the full extent of the abolition of import duties in the United States, and reasoning from analogy the same fact will be repeated regarding sugars. Therefore the Brazilian planter receives the immediate benefit of the placing of sugar on the free list, and only ultimately will the consumer be benefitted. While the United States government is therefore opening its ports to Brazilian produce, let us see what Brazil does in exchange. The customs tariff here is so voluminous, covering as it does 35 classes of goods, that it requires an expert to properly understand all its conditions. For the general reader it is sufficient to state that, while duties are levied specifically in most cases, these duties are professedly a percentage on the cost, freight and shipping charges of the various articles upon which duties are levied. In every case a surtax of 5 per cent. is levied on the duties, not on the assumed value of the goods; or such duties as profess to be 48 per cent. on cost, etc., are in fact 50.40 per cent. By far the most important article imported into this market from the United States is flour, which is rated to pay 15 per cent and the surtax, or 15¾ per cent. As Brazil produces no flour, as yet, and as wheat pays but nominal duties, this percentage levied on American flour has stimulated the construction of two mills in this city, which will necessarily import their wheat from foreign countries, as Brazil produces none of the cereal. This is the first instance of the extent to which this country shows its recognition of American contemplation. Pine, both white and pitch, pay duties of 50.40 per cent according to the tariff; but we have figures to show that, excluding freight, these duties amount to 89 per cent. on the actual sale price in the United States of the latter quality! Kerosene, which is an important article of consumption and a necessity for the poorer classes, is rated to pay 50.40 per cent.; if freight be disregarded, the actual duties amount to 167 per cent., a difference that no freight possible can explain. This article seems to have attracted the greatest animosity on the



—The receipts of the Ceará custom house during the past year amounted to 2,278,756\$822, against 1,425,044\$504 in 1886. This shows a gain of 853,712\$318.

—The total foreign trade receipts of the Pará custom house during the past year amounted to 9,151,081\$895, of which 6,548,019\$833 were from imports and 2,602,462\$062 from exports.

—On the 6th inst. to S. Paulo a man named Moses Rodrigues was shot and instantly killed by his nephew João Rodrigues, a boy of 16 years, who took him for a ghost. The boy had been sent out to see what the dogs were barking at, and, being a great coward, took a gun along.

—For the six months ended 31st December last the S. Paulo sub-treasury remitted to the Treasury 16,473,696\$920 in current and cancelled notes and received 1,359,000\$ in small notes and nickels. The amount thus drained from S. Paulo was 15,123,696\$920, and it is no wonder the Paulistas are somewhat restive.

—The municipal council of S. Vicente and Amparo, S. Paulo, have taken up the question of a reform to the constitution regulating the succession to the throne, the former adopting the S. Simão indication. The S. Simão council, however, has recently reversed its vote, whether through pressure or fear is not apparent.

—The village of Penha do Rio Peixe, São Paulo, has recently been the scene of great disorder, a police *delgado* having been attacked on the 11th inst. by a band of some 60 men and killed. The *delgado* was in sympathy with the emancipation movement in that province and had refused to comply with the wishes of certain influential planters of that locality.

—The Minas correspondent of the *Journal* says that the planters in certain localities, instead of holding "large ostentatious meetings according to the São Paulo mode," have been holding quiet reunions to consider the question of substituting immigrant for slave labor. Unlike the São Paulo meetings, also, there appear to be no emancipations connected with these Minas reunions!

—A telegram from Ouro Preto on the 9th inst. says that the president of Minas Geraes intends to send a march on the liberal majority but not publicly announcing the date of holding an extraordinary session of the provincial assembly, and then declaring vacant the seats of absent liberals. This can very easily be checked, for all the liberal deputies move up to Ouro Preto to live!

## RAILROAD NOTES

—The October receipts of the "Rio Grande a Bagé" railway, Rio Grande do Sul, amounted to 44,625\$300.

—The January traffic receipts of the Leopoldina railway were 249,113\$971, of which passengers contributed 78,172\$030 and goods 145,610\$071.

—In an address before the London Chamber of Commerce on 19th December last, Mr. James E. Wells says that the 18 Brazilian railway companies reporting the character of their locomotives, use 213 of American, 28 of English and 11 of Belgian, French and German manufacture.

—A telegram from the fiscal engineer of the Great Western of Brazil railway to the minister of agriculture, dated on the 9th inst. at Pernambuco, announces that the Itambé branch was opened to traffic that day, the last section having been completed.

—The first meeting of the representatives of various railways in the provinces of Rio, Minas and S. Paulo met at the D. Pedro II central station on the 7th. The meeting was presided over by the director of the D. Pedro II railway and a committee was appointed to organize a scheme for the regulation and elimination of tariffs on the connecting roads. The S. Paulo company was not represented.

—On the 6th the Banco do Commercio opened a subscription list for shares of the Sapucaia railway, Minas Geraes. The capital is 3,000,000\$ in shares of 200\$ each, and it is proposed to raise 3,000,000\$ in debentures. The prospectus states that two-thirds of the capital had been subscribed in the interior. The projected line has an interest guarantee of 7 per cent. by the province of Minas on a maximum of 6,000,000\$.

—The decree of 26th November last, granting a 10 years privilege to the Oeste de Minas railway company for the navigation of the Rio Grande between Ribeirão Vermelho and Rio Spicaculy, has at last been published. The privilege is to begin only at the removal of certain obstructions which must be done within two years. The company is required to employ one steamer and four launches for every 100 kilometres of navigation, transport the mails, immigrants and their baggage gratuitously, and to construct a telegraph line between stations.

—The Rio Grande do Sul tram company declared a dividend of 4 per cent. for the latter half of 1887.

—We see that a Messrs. Morris & Kohn have asked for a renewal of their contract to run restaurant cars on the D. Pedro II line.

—When Mr. Wells tells the London Chamber of Commerce, to illustrate how ignorant Englishmen are of foreign requirements, that "I have seen even on our own English railways in Brazil, locomotives sent out of a type utterly unfit for their work, so much so that they had to be replaced by others of an entirely different character," one is tempted to believe that he is getting in one on that famous "white elephant" of the Paulista line.

—The report of the auditors of the S. Christóvão tramway for the last year states that gross profits were 1,451,295\$818, expenses 769,924\$642, net profits 654,371\$176. Reserve fund was credited with 49,242\$590 and 600,000\$ was divided. The balance carried forward is 20,806\$637, including 15,678\$051 from the preceding year. The auditors complain of the great abuse of free passes, the number of which had increased from 491,471 in 1885 to 664,320 in 1887, and this latter number is estimated to represent the important sum of 96,648\$. The auditors declare that this abuse should be protested against.

## COFFEE NOTES

—We learn from private sources that the present appearance of the new crop is so good that it is probable that an increased estimate will be put on the prospective out-turn of the Rio crop. It is reported also that the crop will be an early one, owing to the favorable season.

—The Oaro Preto correspondent of the *Journal do Commercio*, writing under date of the 3rd inst., says that advices from the northern and central districts of Minas indicate that the next coffee crop in that province will be a little late, but will be more than the average. The estimates vary between 1,800,000 and 2,000,000 bags.

—The *Diário de Notícias* of the 9th inst. says the production of coffee in the province of Espírito Santo commences to attract attention; for in 1883-84 it exported 10,592,697 kilograms, in 1884-85, 13,656,933 kilos, and in 1885-86, 18,446,793 kilos. Of the 1887-88 crop there had arrived in Rio, from July 1st to December 31st last, 955,224 bags, and it is calculated that the quantity in the interior, to be sent to market in the first half year (of 1888), is about 1,000,000 bags. The coming crop, 1888-89, is estimated at 5,000,000 bags.

## LOCAL NOTES

—The *Journal* says that the nine daily papers of this city employ 28 reporters.

—Of the 11,802 emigrants leaving the port of Bordeaux last year, 5,361 were bound to the River Plate and 2,144 to Brazil.

—The new emigration law in Italy very properly requires that agents shall be Italian subjects and shall be required to take out a license every year.

—The January gas bill of this city amounted to 45,420\$648, including 1,977\$854 difference of exchange. The cost of globe gas in the suburbs was 11,168\$521 more.

—The president of the board of health has had once more to call the attention of the municipal council to the bad sanitary condition of certain cow stables within the city.

—Where do the Brazilians hunt out their baptismal names? A lady named Austrichiana (!) has just been nominated post-mistress in the municipality of Cabo Frio, Rio de Janeiro.

—There are two vacancies for the position of *procurante* in the offices of the foreign department, and 60 applicants presented themselves for examination for the same on the 9th inst.

—We are glad to note that Dr. Figueiredo Magalhães has apparently suspended his self-imposed task of "pulverising" Dr. Monat—for which a greatly persecuted public is deeply grateful.

—In view of the last two selections for the Senate, the *Revista Illustrada* wittily pictures Castro Urso in the act of "winking his eye" over a possible candidacy for that august assemblage.

—The *Journal* of the 9th says that the 17th infantry battalion, with the exception of one company, is to go to S. Paulo on the 18th. The anarchists of the advanced province must prepare for squalls.

—The police took the precaution to arrest all well-known *capangas* before Carnival, to be locked up until the festivities are at an end. One of these was captured on the 6th, and as he was stepping into the police cab addressed a chum as follows: "Good-by, José, if you want anything, write me at the Detention; I am accustomed to spend the Carnival in the garden (*chacara*) there!"

—The street sprinkling service of this city cost 3,419\$095 last month.

—The thermometer marked 91.4° Fahr. in the shade on Sunday last, but the boys blew their horns and beat their drums just the same.

—The telegraph announces the re-appearance of cholera at Salta, Argentine Republic, but only a few cases are reported.

—Church robberies and suicides have been the most important occurrences since our last issue, and both have been numerous.

—We see by our exchanges that a considerable number of cooks and waiters have left Buenos Aires for other places. Too much government is sometimes an evil that even a waiter cannot stand.

—The observations made by the City Improvements Co. during the month of January last show a maximum temperature of 81.30° Fahr. (30th) and a minimum of 70.30° (11th).

—Recent mail advices from England announce the death of Dr. Robert Reid Kalley in Edinburgh on the 17th ult. Dr. Kalley was a resident of this country for many years and was the founder of the Igreja Evangelica Fluminense of this city.

—The ladies say that a moderate quantity of flour properly applied to the face greatly enhances their charms, but when a victim of the same is unceremoniously dropped upon the head it adds neither to their beauty nor to their comfort.

—On the 9th a number of coffee factors met here to protest against the recent law, sanctioned by the president of the province of Rio de Janeiro, providing for the collection of provincial duties on coffee upon arrival here. It is claimed to be illegal and vexatious.

—The British Bible Society distributed 12,009 copies of the Bible, entire and in parts, in this country during the past year. Of these, 216 copies were given away. The receipts from sales were 5,700\$310, and the expenses of the agency and distribution 16,285\$399.

—A local paper publishes an advertisement of a S. Paulo lottery. There are 6,000 tickets at 28\$ each and it would appear that 16,000\$ is the grand prize. This is true philanthropy, and the gentleman inserting the advertisement should be sent for change of air in the House of Correction.

—A telegram dated Paris on the 10th and published in *O Paiz* of the 11th, states that Prince Philippe, son of the Comte d'Aquila, had been condemned in three months prison for theft (*gatuagem*). Perhaps the loss of his annuity from the Brazilian treasury has driven him to such desperate straits!

—For the six months ending 31st December last the importation of foreign salt at this port amounted to 10,657,470 litres, officially valued at 222,030\$626, which paid duties at the rate of 48 per cent., with a surtax of 5 per cent. In the same period 10,164,322 litres of domestic salt were received from Cape Frio, Rio Grande do Norte and Sergipe.

—The active director of the National Museum Dr. Ladislao Netto, has, according to the *Gazeta de Notícias*, introduced an important improvement. A supply of running water and gas has been secured for the section of zoology, anatomy and comparative embryology. We should have supposed that enough gas was already generated on the premises.

—The *Journal* of the 11th states that an important document relative to an estate had disappeared from one of the clerks' offices of the Court of Intestates and Absentees, and although money and government stock belonging to the estate valued at some 28,000\$ was known to have been paid into some department, it cannot be traced. There seems something radically crooked in the courts here, particularly with those charged with the administration of estates.

—On the 10th the minister of agriculture addressed a dispatch to the president of S. Paulo regarding the Ipanema iron mines and foundry. The minister says the province levies a tax of 2 réis per kilogramme on iron, which hopes will be modified in view of the unsatisfactory condition of the foundry, the revenue of which, mainly derived from orders from the D. Pedro II railway and the navy yard, does not reach one-third of the expenditure. He further quotes the director of the establishment as saying that it costs 88\$270 per ton to send iron to Rio, and hopes the railways may be induced to reduce their tariffs on the article.

—The *Gazeta de Notícias* of the 11th has some very pertinent remarks regarding the explosion of the boiler of the Bahia steamboat *Dons de Julho* when 30 lives were lost, and slight explosions on two other boats of the very same company, fortunately without loss of life. The *Gazeta* prints a report, dated on October 18th last from the captain of the port of Bahia to the president of the province, in which he states he had personally examined the steamers and that they were in good condition, yet within three months these accidents occur. Until an official or two is hanged, this state of affairs is very likely to continue.

—A telegram from Paris on the 12th says that the French government has submitted the boundary question with Brazil to a special commission.

—We are glad to note that the proper military commission has accepted a new ammunition wagon for infantry service. If our Argentine neighbors are not careful, we'll explode one of them on the frontier and break them all up.

—On the 9th the first cases, in Rio, were treated by the Pasteur method for protection against hydrophobia at the recently instituted hospital here. A lad and a girl bitten by a supposed rabid dog at Cantagallo, were the patients.

—The customs inspector of this port, Conselheiro Sampaio Vianna, left for Bahia on the *Trent* on the 9th inst., on a well-earned leave of absence. A large number of his personal friends went on board to wish him a pleasant voyage.

—Among recent arrivals from the South we take pleasure in noting that of Mr. R. J. Calender, C. E., who has been engaged in surveys on the Upper Uruguay. Mr. C. may be consulted on business relating to his profession at No. 67 Rua do Ouvidor.

—An inquiry is now being made into a case of seduction, the offender being a police official and the victim a servant girl employed in his own family. Would it not be well to rid the police service altogether of such an official, and then to have him prosecuted like any common criminal?

—We deeply regret to note that, according to a telegram to the *Paiz* on the 7th inst., the *padres* of Buenos Aires have gone out on a strike, because of the low prices ruling for masses. With both spiritual and bodily food cut off by strikes, the situation of the *Parifeiros* is lamentable indeed.

—On the 6th inst. the minister of agriculture ordered that the Nacional navigation company should be fined 500\$ for not substituting the *Rio Jaguarão*, lost near Maldonado last July, by another steamer, and marks 30 days for presenting a steamer for the service executed by the lost boat.

—The *Journal do Commercio* of the 8th inst. gives the total number of immigrants arriving in Brazil last year as 55,986, as follows: landing at Rio 31,310, Santos 23,223, Rio Grande do Sul 815, Santa Catharina 430, Bahia 199, Paraná 9. No reports have been received from Pernambuco and Pará.

—The Benelgô meteorite has arrived at a point 60 kilometers from the Bahia railway, and the chief of transportation, Comendador José Carlos de Carvalho, has already arrived in this city. The two will be again remitted, and it is thought the illustrious meteorite will arrive in this city sometime in March or April next.

—During the 10 months—March to December—of the past year, there were 9,827 immigrants introduced into Brazil under the Vincenti contract, of which 1,302 were under 3 years of age and 1,262 were not with families, for which the state paid no subsidies. The total cost to the state for the remaining 6,399 was 165,537\$838.

—Carnival is certainly to be credited with one good result—the repair of numerous bad places in the street pavements. At any other time no attention whatever is paid to complaints about these pavements, but the moment it is intimated that they might inconvenience King Monus and his train an army of laborers is at once employed to make all necessary repairs. In this respect King Monus is more influential than the Emperor Peter himself.

—The *recordeira* of this city reports the slave population of the *município neutro* on December 31st last as 6,834, of which 3,391 are males and 3,443 females. The decrease since the close of the last general registry in March 31st, 1887—a period of nine months was 772, of which 58 were from deaths. This appears to us to be a remarkably low death rate, which is equivalent to about 10 per thousand per annum. The average for the city is about 35.

—Recent exchanges announce the election of Frederick Youle, Esq., as chairman of the board of directors of the Merchant Banking Company, of London. Mr. Youle has a large number of friends and acquaintances in this country who will take the greatest pleasure in offering their congratulations on this fitting recognition of the many services which he has been able to render to an important banking institution during the long years which he has been connected with it.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*Defesa de José Maria Carneiro da Cunha*; by his advocate Dr. José Hygino Duarte Pereira. The case is a criminal prosecution of José Soares do Amaral *et al*, purchasers of the wreck of the coasting steamer *Bahia*, for the re-issue of cancelled treasury notes taken from the said wreck. The case is a peculiar and interesting one.



part of Brazilian financial authorities, the reason for which we have been unable to discover; but figures show that the imports in 1887 were about 82,000 cases less than in 1886, a tolerably conclusive proof that the increased duties have been effective to reduce consumption, and further increase the balance due in gold to Brazil by the United States. Rosin appears to pay 15 3/4 per cent. by the tariff, but disregarding freight, the duties are estimated at 45 per cent. Lard is rated as paying 31 1/2 per cent.; but the duties are 52 per cent. on first cost. Hams pay according to the tariff 50.40 per cent., although none are produced here; smoked and salted meats pay 21 per cent., butter pays 50.40 per cent., soap the same, rice pays 21 per cent., beans and maize the same. Flax seed pays 50.40 per cent., potatoes pay 15 1/2, tanning barks pay 21, onions 50.40, and hay 21. Tar pays 15 3/4 per cent., cotton seed oil 50.40. Beer and wines pay 63 per cent. Chairs, wooden, 50.40 per cent., oars 50.40. Straw hats pay 50.40, cotton, linen and woolen goods the same percentage. Rough iron pays 15 1/2 per cent., hardware generally 50.40, and guns the same. Cutlery and clocks also pay 50.40 per cent. Sewing machines are also rated at this figure. All the above are the percentages that the customs authorities state is the ratio on which duties are levied. From the few actual figures we have been able to obtain it seems clear that the customs figures are most assuredly erroneous, whether purposely or not, we have nothing to do. We see, therefore, that Brazil is levying duties almost entirely at the rate of 50.40 per cent. on cost, charges and freight on every article that might be supplied by the very country that has thrown open its markets to Brazilian products without the imposition of any taxes! Will any one tell us whether this is a state of affairs upon which a satisfactory trade can be built?

THE consolidation of the Leopoldina and Cantagallo railway systems, which promises to become an important coffee carrying line, should lead to a new and thorough consideration of the question of marketing and shipping that product at this port. No one will dispute the statement, we think, that the costs of marketing coffee here are unnecessarily high, and that the difficulties of handling it are unnecessarily great. Possessing one of the finest harbors in the world, the commerce of Rio de Janeiro ought certainly to possess equally superior shipping facilities. As the case stands, however, the reverse of this is nearer the truth. One corporation enjoys a monopoly of the privilege of shipping coffee, and being unable at times to give all needed facilities it frequently occurs that considerable additional expense and delay are incurred. All this is an unnecessary tax on commerce, as it yields no revenue to the Treasury, nor does it give security or dispatch to business. There have recently been many complaints about the insufficient shipping facilities afforded by the D. Pedro II docks, and with the largely increased crop of the current year these difficulties will certainly be even greater. Should the Rio de Janeiro provincial government persist in its purpose to change the methods of collecting its export taxes on coffee, other embarrassments will surely follow, which will make it absolutely impossible to handle the next crop economically and with dispatch. Now as the Leopoldina company will soon open a new transportation line for the coffee region of south-eastern Minas, which will largely increase the receipts at its Niteroy terminus, why can not arrangements be made for the shipment of coffee from that city. No change need be made in the ordinary methods of marketing the product, while

the expense of shipping might be very much reduced. The Leopoldina company might easily build store-houses and piers which would give infinitely better and more uniform shipping facilities than are now afforded by the D. Pedro II docks, and there would be no objections to loading alongside the whole year, which is not permitted on this side of the bay. It is clear that if this company undertakes to transport all its coffee to this side, either by boat or by the long circuitous railway around the head of the bay, a very considerable expense will be added to the product, which will unavoidably come out of the pockets of the Rio and Minas producers. This is an expense that ought to be guarded against, and the first step in that direction should be in the shipping of coffee directly from Niteroy.

#### TRADE OF GREAT BRITAIN WITH BRAZIL.

The following figures extracted from the *Statist* of January 14th show the export for 1886 and 1887 of some of the principal articles produced by the United Kingdom and all exported to Brazil:

	1886	1887
Coal..... tons	475,371	512,845
do value..... £	246,996	269,714
Cotton, goods..... yards	241,034,500	215,379,400
do value..... £	2,679,273	2,517,899
Linen do..... yards	3,209,500	2,983,500
do value..... £	106,953	96,908
Woolen do..... yards	3,224,000	2,684,900
do value..... £	201,418	162,682
Worsted do..... yards	3,473,800	2,909,600
do value..... £	96,090	94,682
Yute do..... yards	15,152,100	16,118,611
do value..... £	117,945	119,611
Hardware, value £	149,379	155,681
Iron, railway, all sorts..... tons	18,162	8,647
do value..... £	91,793	46,199
do cast and wrought..... tons	13,011	12,254
do value..... £	176,470	181,053
do machinery and millwork do	219,114	187,387
do other machinery do	244,102	215,152
Earthenware, and similar, value..... £	71,273	83,270
Oil, seed..... tons	1,502	1,526
do value..... £	35,573	35,263
The total values of the exports of products of the United Kingdom were in		
1886	1887	
£ 212,432,754	£ 221,398,440	

#### PROVINCIAL NOTES.

—The S. Barja proposition for a *plebiscite* seems to have awakened a few echoes in São Paulo.

—Barão da Leopoldina was chosen senator for the province of Minas Geraes on the 3rd inst.

—The new provincial assembly in Minas Geraes is said to be composed of 28 conservatives, 28 liberals and 2 republicans.

—The January export of sugar from Macaé amounted to 10,536 metrical tons and the export of cotton to 653 1/2 tons.

—The next senatorial election in Minas Geraes is called for April 26th. This, we believe, fills the last vacancy.

—The vital statistics of the city of Campos for the past year show 947 baptisms (births), 129 marriages and 1,059 deaths.

—There were 25 criminal cases tried before the jury in Campos during the past year, of which 17 were for homicide. There were 10 convictions, of which 7 were murderers.

—The electric light enterprise in the city of São Paulo has been transformed into a joint-stock company under the designation of "Empresa Paulista de Electricidade."

—The registered slave population in the province of Pará numbers 10,535. This does not include the Indians held to "involuntary servitude" for christianizing purposes.

—The January receipts of the Victoria custom house amounted to 19,982\$636, of which 1,604\$-319 were from imports, 9,898\$500 from exports and 7,433\$526 from internal revenue taxes.

—On the 6th inst. the municipal council of Campinas, São Paulo, adopted an "Ordination" to the provincial assembly that a representation be sent to the Chamber of Deputies asking for the calling of a Constituent Assembly for the revision of the Constitution in that part providing for the succession to the throne.

—The Swedish brig. *Natal*, from Santos to New York with coffee, is reported from Pernambuco on the 31st ult. where she arrived in distress, her master, A. Helstel, being sick.

—On the night of the 3rd two of those miserable slave-hunters that disgrace the country, met with resistance from some of their game near Campos, Rio de Janeiro, and one was killed outright and the other mortally wounded.

—A resolution, similar to that of S. Barja, was presented to the municipal council of S. João da Boa Vista, São Paulo, on the 6th inst. The purpose is to obtain a popular vote on the succession to the crown.

—On the 4th inst. the Rio de Janeiro provincial law was published, that orders the collection of the provincial export tax on coffee, 4 per cent., upon entry in this city. Heretofore the tax has been collected upon shipment.

—The *Journal do Recife*, Pernambuco, on the 4th inst. published a telegram from Limoeiro, signed by various Portuguese merchants, complaining of violence on the part of the police there and asking the press to ventilate the matter.

—The *Pais* of the 9th says, "the winter continues abundant in almost all the interior of the province of Ceará." It seems a pity that of its abundance Ceará cannot spare a little winter for Rio, for we are simply melting here.

—A Paralyha do Norte journal states that in December the son of a police sub-delegate and nephew of the police commandant of the district, killed his cousin, and up to the end of January no steps had been taken to punish the crime.

—Dry weather in Rio Grande do Sul and wet weather in Minas Geraes have been making the unhappy agriculturist feel that there is little in this world to live for—unless it be that a bank can be organized especially to loan him some money.

—The number of immigrants arriving at the São Paulo *hospedaria* in January was 3,534, of which 2,499 came spontaneously and 1,125 through the agency of the Sociedade Promotora. Of the total arrivals 5,320 were Italians and 136 Portuguese.

—The directress of a public school was assaulted by a soldier in uniform on the night of the 1st inst. in Pernambuco, who attempted to rob her. Upon her screaming for assistance the rascal stabbed her and died. Fortunately the wound was not serious.

—If the conservative voters in Minas Geraes are equal to the emergency, they will so cast their votes next time as to make Deputy Soares the only conservative candidate elected—and then we shall see whether the Barão de Cotegipe will select him or not.

—The steamer *Nazareth* of the Companhia Bahiana ran aground at Catú, Bahia, on the 2nd inst., but was afterwards floated with but slight injury. This following so soon after the explosion of the *Dona de Jutha* has created a very unfavorable impression.

—The *Correio de Campinas*, São Paulo, is responsible for the story that a planter and his wife, alarmed by the flight of their negroes, had made vows after vows to St. Anthony, begging him to keep the blacks quiet and in the plantation. The negroes continuing to run away, this worthy couple lost all patience with the saint, and positively hung him! We should have thought St. Benedict, himself a man of color, would have been the proper saint to appeal to in the given case, and perhaps St. Anthony was annoyed by the application to him.

—The emancipation fever seems at last to have struck north-eastern São Paulo, where the reactive influences of Rio de Janeiro have thus far dominated. On the 6th inst. the *Journal do Commercio* publishes a list of 1,457 liberations recently granted in Taubaté, Rodeopólis, Cagapava, Jambuí, S. Luiz and Pindamonhangaba. Of these 723 were liberated unconditionally, 395 at the end of the current year, 323 on completion of one year's service, and 36 at the end of 1889. Among the unconditional liberations were 200 by the Visconde da Palmeira, the great land-owner of Pindamonhangaba.

—On the 18th ult. a poor old sexagenarian negro fell down ill in a public street of Bannal, São Paulo, where he remained for some time without aid, the humane laws of the country forbidding the slightest interference until the police authorities have made their investigation. When the police *delegado* had arrived and taken an official look at the suffering old man, he sent for a litter to take him to the hospital, but was informed by the warden that the negro would not be admitted without an order from the *providor* [governor]. Application was then made to the *providor*, who in his turn refused to give an order of admission without a medical certificate. There was no physician in town at the time, and the poor old man died without assistance at the police station. The hospital belongs to the *Misericórdia* brotherhood, and the event to the nineteenth century.

—The Rio Grande postoffice yielded 20,134\$850 during the past year.

—It is reported from Sergipe that the slaves in that province are revolting and leaving the plantations.

—A defalcation of about 30,000\$ has been discovered in the municipal treasury of Ouro Preto, Minas Geraes.

—The total receipts of the Porto Alegre custom house during the past year were 3,201,990\$976, against 3,357,172\$949 in 1886.

—The Carnival at Petropolis passed off in a very animated manner. A flower (not flour) battle was one of its features.

—The December receipts of the Amazonas custom house were 104,464\$115, of which 55,186\$520 were from imports and 49,278\$423 from exports.

—The returns thus far received from the recent senatorial election in Bahia indicate that the tripartite list will contain at least one liberal.

—The new immigrants station for the province of Minas Geraes is to be located on the "Japara" plantation near Jure de Fôrta, and will have accommodations for 800 persons.

—The *Journal* of the 11th says that the president of Pará dismissed seven government employees who were caught in a gambling house. When will we see similar action in Rio?

—On the 8th inst. three electric discharges occurred at S. Paulo. One seriously damaged the parish church in the O' suburb, the second struck the steeple of the S. Paulo church and the third instantly killed an Italian in the Pary suburb.

—The new provincial assembly of Paralyha will be composed of 16 liberals and 14 conservatives. It is beginning to appear that Premier Cotegipe is not to have the whole country in his support, as sometimes asserted.

—The coasting steamer *Rio de Janeiro*, belonging to the Companhia Nacional, ran aground in the "canal da Barca" at Rio Grande do Sul on the 1st inst., and was not got off until the morning of the 8th.

—The January receipts of the São Paulo [city] postoffice amounted to 13,128\$666, against 9,821\$-350 in the same month of last year. The returns from other offices in that province appear to have been overlooked.

—A slave boy of 18 or 19 years was exhibited at Atibaia, São Paulo, on the 7th inst. with an enormous iron fastened on his left ankle, weighing nearly 8 1/2 pounds. The iron was removed with considerable difficulty. His master is, or was, a certain Captain Manoel Pereira.

—The "Associação Promotora da Imigração" in Minas Geraes is somewhat different from the São Paulo society, inasmuch as it is speculative in character and its profits will be divided among its shareholders. Its present contract is for the introduction of 30,000 immigrants.

—Mail advices from Manaus, Amazonas, dated the 8th ult., gave a report that the contract with the Benth line for a steamship service between that province and New York has been renewed at the same subsidy—48,000\$ per annum—but with an increase in the number of trips.

—The new immigration project in São Paulo, for the introduction of 100,000 European immigrants, received the president's sanction on the 3rd inst. This bill was the first introduced the present session, the first adopted, and, consequently, the first signal.

—At a place called Penha, in S. Paulo, on the 5th the procession of St. Sebastian was forming, when among the virgins who were to form part of the show the parish priest discovered a young black boy, who dressed in skirt and coat proposed to figure as a virgin. He was promptly expelled from the procession.

—The January revenue receipts at Pernambuco were as follows:

	1886	1887
Custom house.....	1,023,693\$289	824,805\$160
Receita geral.....	42,700 \$69	35,337 \$60
Receita provincial	95,289 \$70	96,254 \$30

These receipts are all less than those of 1884.

—An exchange gives the following comparative receipts of four principal custom houses for the 18 months from July 1st, 1886, to December 31st, 1887:

Santos.....	17,218,747\$937
Bahia.....	16,234,849 \$77
Pernambuco.....	15,929,520 \$95
Pará.....	15,073,998 \$11

Total..... 64,457,115\$739

—A Rio Grande do Sul journal recently states that goods, upon which the duties would have amounted to some 18,000\$, were withdrawn in hand from the Pelotas custom house for shipment to Montevideo, and intimates that they will find their way back into the province via the underground railway. There seems little reason to doubt that smuggling to an enormous extent is being carried on between Uruguay and Rio Grande do Sul.



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